

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Species IV with traverse in the reply filed on 2/25/2010 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 1-14, and 20-21 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected Species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 2/25/2010.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jack Pasquale on 5/12/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims filed on 10/12/2005:

- Cancel claims 1-14;
- Claim 15, line 2, replace "the user" by --a user--;
- Claim 15, lines 52-53, delete "'camera shutter' style",
- Claim 15, line 55, replace "whereby" by --wherein--;
- Cancel claims 20-21.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 15-19 are allowed. Claims 15-19 have been renumbered as 1-5, respectively.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

USP 6,672,430 to Boucher et al discloses a compact support mechanism comprising, such as shown in Fig 3, a linkage supported by an underlying floor, a tabletop 2 overlying the linkage and having an upper surface, an underside, a front rim, a rear rim, and two side rims, a pair of downslanting legs each having an upper end pivotally anchored on a first transverse axis to the tabletop's underside near its front edge, and each having a lower end pivotally supporting a wheel rotatable on a second transverse axis; a pair of upslanting legs each having a lower end pivotally anchored to a floor-supported bracket on a third transverse axis directly below said first transverse axis, and each having an upper end pivotally supporting a roller supporting said underside surface of said table rotatable on a fourth transverse axis directly above said second transverse axis, one downslanting leg of each pair being adjacent to an upstanding leg, the mid-points of both adjacent legs being pivotally joined on a fifth transverse axis, the rollers being positioned and connected for ganged rolling motion toward and away from the tabletop's rear rim, and an extensible gas spring piston-cylinder 22 providing a force supplying device.

USP 5,771,816 to Zaguroli, Jr. discloses a compact support mechanism comprising, such as shown in Fig 2, a linkage supported by an underlying floor, a tabletop 12 overlying the linkage and having an upper surface, an underside, a front rim,

a rear rim, and two side rims, a pair of downslanting legs each having an upper end pivotally anchored on a first transverse axis to the tabletop's underside near its front edge, and each having a lower end pivotally supporting a wheel 15 rotatable on a second transverse axis; a pair of upslanting legs each having a lower end pivotally anchored to a floor-supported bracket on a third transverse axis directly below said first transverse axis, and each having an upper end pivotally supporting a roller 17 supporting said underside surface of said table rotatable on a fourth transverse axis directly above said second transverse axis, one downslanting leg of each pair being adjacent to an upstanding leg, the mid-points of both adjacent legs being pivotally joined on a fifth transverse axis, the rollers being positioned and connected for ganged rolling motion toward and away from the tabletop's rear rim.

USP 5,632,209 to Sakakibara discloses a compact support mechanism comprising, such as shown in Fig 1, a linkage supported by an underlying floor, a tabletop 4 overlying the linkage and having an upper surface, an underside, a front rim, a rear rim, and two side rims, a pair of downslanting legs each having an upper end pivotally anchored on a first transverse axis to the tabletop's underside near its front edge, and each having a lower end pivotally supporting a wheel 13 rotatable on a second transverse axis; a pair of upslanting legs each having a lower end pivotally anchored to a floor-supported bracket on a third transverse axis directly below said first transverse axis, and each having an upper end pivotally supporting a roller 10 supporting said underside surface of said table rotatable on a fourth transverse axis directly above said second transverse axis, one downslanting leg of each pair being

adjacent to an upstanding leg, the mid-points of both adjacent legs being pivotally joined on a fifth transverse axis, the rollers being positioned and connected for ganged rolling motion toward and away from the tabletop's rear rim.

The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest, in combination with all the elements recited in independent claim 15, a link having a rear end connected to said ganged rollers and having a front end, a bell crank having an inner end, an outer end, and a central pivot point pivotally connected to the underside of the tabletop, the inner end also being pivotally connected to the front end of said link, and the outer end having a pivot point thereon, an extensible gas spring piston-cylinder having pivots joining each of its ends respectively to a fixed point and to the outer end of said bell crank and which is normally clamped to block telescoping movement of the piston in the cylinder in any of its extended positions, and manually actuatable unclamping lever means mounted on one of the upper or lower tabletop surfaces, and connected by a cable, to the gas spring piston-cylinder to unclamp it.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Heckert, Krieger, Cook, Canfield, Hahn, Stone, Tabayashi,

Proksch, Richard, Fahmian, Prinzess-Moebel, and Rossini all show structures similar to various elements of applicant's disclosure.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HANH V. TRAN whose telephone number is (571)272-6868. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, and alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darnell M. Jayne can be reached on (571) 272-7723. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Hanh V. Tran/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3637